

Jail Population Management Subcommittee
of the
Sanford “Sandy” Krasnoff Criminal Justice Council

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, March 20, 2018

1:30pm – 3:00pm

-
- | | | |
|------|--|------------------------|
| I. | Opening | Judge Calvin Johnson |
| II. | Jail Population Snapshots | Sarah Schirmer |
| III. | Report from OPSO Compliance Director | Director Darnley Hodge |
| IV. | Release on Recognizance Report Preview | Sarah Schirmer |
| V. | JPM Subcommittee Resolution | Subcommittee Members |
| VI. | Community Advisory Group Updates | CAG Representatives |
| VII. | Subcommittee Member Updates | Open to Members |

Criminal Justice Council Jail Population Management Subcommittee Minutes

March 20, 2018

On March 20, the Jail Population Management Subcommittee of the Criminal Justice Council convened at 1:38 pm in the 8th Floor Homeland Security Conference Room in City Hall. The following persons were present/absent:

Jail Population Management Subcommittee

Present:

Criminal Justice Commissioner Calvin Johnson –
Subcommittee Chair
Deputy Chief Paul Noel, New Orleans Police
Department
Derwyn Bunton, Orleans Public Defenders
District Administrator Steve Lassalle, Probation &
Parole
Councilmember Susan Guidry
Jonathan Wisbey, Chief Administrative Office
Al Christophe, Community Representative

Office of Criminal Justice Coordination

Sarah Schirmer
Shelbi Flynn

Arrived Later:

Terrie Guerin, Clerk of Court's Office

Absent:

Director Darnley Hodge, Orleans Parish Sherriff's
Office
Virginia Ryan, Orleans Parish Sherriff's Office
Chris Bowman, District Attorney's Office
Judge Camille Buras, Criminal District Court
Deputy City Attorney Charlene Larche-Mason
Samantha François, Community Representative
Karen Wong, Community Representative
Judge Harry Cantrell, Criminal District Court

I. Opening

Commissioner Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

II. Jail Population Snapshots

Sarah Schirmer presented the Jail Population Snapshots. February's ADP was 1,409 and had dropped to 1,318 as of March 15th. We've seen sustained reduction in the overall population, particularly individuals sentenced to the Department of Corrections. Councilmember Guidry noted that the "Municipal and Traffic Pretrial" population has also dropped significantly. This decrease could be attributable to the Municipal Bail Ordinance passed last year, but the data has yet to be reviewed for confirmation.

III. Report from OPSO Compliance Director

Director Hodge was unable to attend the meeting because the jail monitors are currently visiting the jail. This agenda item will be rescheduled.

IV. Release on Recognizance Report Preview

Sarah Schirmer presented preliminary data on the Release on Recognizance (ROR) initiative. The initiative began as a pilot in Magistrate section M5 in May and expanded to include sections M2-M4 in October via Court order. The initiative aims to: (1) increase the use of RORs for lower risk defendants who are ROR eligible; and (2) increase use of nominal bonds for defendants who are lower risk, but ineligible for a ROR.

Terrie Guerin arrived at 1:47 p.m.

An initial review of the data does not reflect any substantial positive change in the use of ROR or nominal bonds from Q3 to Q4. See presentation for further detail.

Councilmember Guidry noted that the data presented indicates that the initiative is not working. This sentiment was echoed by other Subcommittee members. Sarah Schirmer responded that the data is surprising. Councilmember Guidry requested that a representative of the Court be invited to speak about this trend.

Terrie Guerin noted that RORs and associated failures to appear incur a cost to the Court but do not generate income, which could have a budgetary impact if the frequency of RORs increases significantly. Derwyn Bunton commented that there's no cause for concern right now since ROR and failure to appear rates have not changed and the target population is relatively small.

Jonathan Wisbey asked about next steps for this initiative in light of its apparent ineffectiveness. Sarah Schirmer responded that this data can now be brought back to the commissioners for discussion. Derwyn Bunton requested that additional factors and barriers that are not reflected in data, such as perception, political pressure, and litigation, be considered when discussing the initiative with commissioners.

V. JPM Subcommittee Resolution

Last month, the Subcommittee discussed developing a resolution to communicate its priorities and intentions to external stakeholders and the general public. OCJC presented a draft resolution that was developed based on February's discussion and requested feedback from Subcommittee members.

Steve Lassalle requested language that emphasizes safe and responsible reduction of the population. Members also requested that the resolution reflect a focus on community mental health in addition to mental health treatment within the jail. A final version of the resolution will be voted on at the next meeting in April.

VI. Community Advisory Group Updates

Al Christophe reiterated the CAG's previous request for an update from Director Hodge. He also reported that the CAG and Vera will be meeting with the Mayor Elect and Council Elect later in the week.

VII. Subcommittee Member Updates

Susan Guidry announced that SJC and jail population reduction are on the agenda for the Criminal Justice Committee meeting on April 24th at 10 a.m. There will also be a separate presentation on the LEAD pilot on April 27th at 2 p.m.

Steve Lassalle recognized Tobie Lamy for his dedicated efforts in reviewing cases of probationers and parolees in jail, which involves a lot of by-hand work, and coordinating with the JSA to resolve outstanding issues.

The meeting concluded at 2:35 p.m.